

I CLAIM:

1. A computer generated entity, comprising:  
a plurality of attributes, wherein at least one such attribute defines the vitality of the  
entity; and

5 a plurality of actions, at least one of which will affect the vitality of the entity.

10 2. The computer generated entity of claim 1, wherein:

said actions simulate actions by the entity on objects in an environment.

15 3. The computer generated entity of claim 2, wherein:

the environment is a computer generated simulated environment.

4. The computer generated entity of claim 1, wherein:

15 simulated death occurs when the actions result in a reduction of vitality below a  
preset level.

20 5. The computer generated entity of claim 1, wherein:

vitality level is determined by a quantity of energy packets.

6. A computer interface, comprising:

a digital form having a plurality of attributes;

a plurality of actions which may be accomplished by the digital life form; and

a selection criteria for selecting from said plurality of actions; wherein

25 repeated selection of actions which do not contribute to the vitality of the digital life form  
will result in the simulated death of the digital life form

7. The computer interface of claim 6, and further including:

30 a birth process wherein experience from the digital life form is passed on to a next  
generation of the digital life form.

8. The computer interface of claim 6, wherein:  
said digital life form perceives a plurality of objects in an environment; and  
said actions are selected to optimize vitality dependant upon the particular objects  
perceived.
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9. The computer interface of claim 6, wherein:  
said actions are taken to optimize at least one of a plurality of simulated feelings.
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10. The computer interface of claim 9, wherein:  
at least one of the simulated feelings is a feeling of fullness.
11. The computer interface of claim 10, wherein:  
the feeling of fullness is represented by a quantity of energy packets.
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- 12.. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having a  
computer readable program code embodied thereon configured to operate on a  
computer, comprising:  
code to cause the computer to keep track of a list of attributes of a digital life form;  
code to cause the computer to cause the digital life form to take actions to  
maintain its own vitality.
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13. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein:  
said actions are selected from a list of actions programmed into the computer.
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14. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein:  
at least one consequence of the selection of said actions is the termination of the  
digital life form.
15. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein:  
30 at least one of the attributes of the digital life form is a simulated feeling.

16. A method for creating a digital life form, comprising:  
defining a digital life form;  
providing access for the digital life form to an environment;  
5 defining a plurality of potential actions for the digital life form; and  
providing consequences to the digital life form for such actions.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein:  
said digital life form includes a plurality of attributes.  
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18. The method of claim 16, wherein:  
said environment is a computer generated simulated environment.  
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19. The method of claim 16, wherein:  
at least one of said actions includes EAT.  
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20. The method of claim 19, wherein:  
EAT is defined as assimilating energy packets to increase the vitality of said digital life form.  
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21. The method of claim 16, wherein:  
at least one consequences of said actions is the simulated death of said digital life form.  
22. The method of claim 16, and further including:  
providing a strategy for selecting from said plurality of actions.  
23. A method for simulating consciousness, comprising;  
identifying characteristics of objects in an environment; and  
30 storing lists of said characteristics.

24. The method of claim 23, and further including:  
identifying at least ?? of said objects by comparison to said lists of said characteristics.

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25. The method of claim 23, and further including:  
acting on at least one of said objects according to the characteristics of that object.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein:

10       said lists are percepts.

27. A method for obtaining information valuable for survival, comprising:  
performing a plurality of optional behaviors; and  
storing information relative to such actions for future reference.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein:  
said actions are initially selected in a random manner.

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29. A method for forming concepts in a Digital Life Form, wherein:  
percepts are compared to form concepts.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein:  
concepts are compared to form conceptual chains.

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31. The method of claim 29, wherein:  
concepts are associated with natural language words.